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# **A**gricultural **L**ibraries **I**nformation **N**otes



**National  
Agricultural  
Library**

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## **Library Services for the Agricultural Research Service: A Plan for the 1990s and Beyond**

by **Peggy J. Beavers**  
ARS Coordinator, NAL

What lies ahead in information services for the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in the 1990s? A sure bet—as new journals are published, subscriptions costs increase, and information resources in various print and non-print formats proliferate—is increased use of computer technologies and more cooperation and resource sharing among the ARS field libraries and other libraries. This article discusses joint efforts between the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the Agricultural Research Service to address these issues. The current activities involve the five ARS Regional Research Center (RRC) libraries in Albany, CA; Athens, GA; Peoria, IL; New Orleans, LA, Philadelphia, PA, and the Appalachian Soil & Water Conservation Research Laboratory (ASWCRL) in Beckley, WV.



photo: Keith Russell

Peggy Beavers, ARS Coordinator, NAL, presented an overview of the accomplishments and plans of the ARS/NAL Project to a group of research scientists at the Northern Regional Research Center, ARS, in Peoria, IL. During 1989 NAL staff made site visits to all of the ARS regional research centers.

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**...and more**

## National Agricultural Library

The National Agricultural Library is the primary resource for agricultural information in the U.S. and the Nation's center for international agricultural information systems and services. As such, its primary mission involves increasing the availability and utilization of agricultural information for researchers, educators, policy makers, consumers of agricultural products, and the public-at-large. To assist in this role, NAL coordinates a national network of State land-grant and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) field libraries.

NAL provides backup library services to the field and the nation. Two key services for which the NAL is well known are CALS (Current Awareness Literature Service) and document delivery. CALS has been available to USDA personnel since 1972. It provides computer-based literature searches of 13 bibliographic databases at no direct cost to USDA personnel. ARS researchers and staffs comprise approximately 87% of the users of CALS within the USDA. Document delivery, another heavily used service, is facilitated through a Regional Document Delivery System (RDDS) which was implemented in 1973. The RDDS is a tiered interlibrary loan system of mostly land-grant university libraries within 36 States of the United States and Puerto Rico.

CALS also facilitates document delivery services in that each page of a CALS printout contains a Request for Publication Form. CALS users may simply indicate desired documents and forward the request to NAL or the nearest land-grant university library. The CALS citations often include NAL call numbers for documents in the NAL collection.

## Agricultural Research Service

The Agricultural Research Service is the principal scientific research component of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "The mission of ARS is to plan, develop, and implement research that is designed to produce new knowledge and technologies required to assure the continuing vitality of the Nation's food and agriculture enterprise." ARS is a network of over 120 research centers, laboratories, and work sites in the United States and abroad. Research activities are decentralized and many are located at or near land-grant universities and State experiment stations; others are located in remote locations.

## ARS Regional Research Center Libraries

Basic library services for ARS personnel are provided through USDA agency field libraries at ARS installations throughout the United States. There are 24 ARS libraries of which 10 are officially designated USDA field libraries. Additionally, many ARS laboratories maintain resource collections onsite. This article focuses on current cooperative activities between NAL, libraries at the five ARS Regional Research Centers and the ARS laboratory in Beckley, West Virginia (See box on this page). ARS field libraries provide library services and materials primarily to support research projects and activities at the respective research center or laboratory. Because the staffs of field libraries are small and

## ARS Regional Center Libraries Participating in the Cooperative Project with NAL

### CALIFORNIA

Ms. Rena Schonbrun, Librarian  
Western Regional Research Center Library  
ARS, USDA  
800 Buchanan St.  
Albany, CA 94710  
(415) 559-5603

### GEORGIA

Ms. Jo Ann Schoonmaker, Librarian  
Russell Research Center Library  
ARS, USDA  
P.O. Box 5677  
Athens, GA 30613  
(404) 546-3314/FTS 250-3314

### ILLINOIS

Mr. Donald L. Blevins, Librarian  
Northern Regional Research Center Library  
ARS, USDA  
1815 North University St.  
Peoria, IL 61604  
(309) 685-4011/FTS 360-4526

### LOUISIANA

Ms. Suhad Wojkowski, Librarian  
Southern Regional Research Center Library  
ARS, USDA  
1100 Robert E. Lee Blvd.  
P.O. Box 19687  
New Orleans, LA 70179  
(504) 286-4289

### PENNSYLVANIA

Ms. Wendy Kramer, Admin. Librarian  
Eastern Regional Research Center Library  
ARS, USDA  
600 East Mermaid Ln.  
Philadelphia, PA 19118  
(215) 233-6602, 6604/FTS 489-6602, 6660, 6604

### WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. Walter Winant, Information Specialist  
Appalachian Soil & Water  
Conservation Laboratory Library  
USDA, ARS, NAA  
Airport Road, P.O. Box 867  
Beckley, WV 25802-6426  
(304) 252-6426/FTS 930-5230

the collections are focused toward specific research activities, field libraries draw upon collections and resources of a network of libraries coordinated by NAL and local libraries.

**Collections.** The ARS RRC libraries have relatively small research collections of books, journals, technical





photo: D. Starr

Participants at a recent meeting of the ARS/NAL Project included (L-R) Donald L. Blevins, Librarian, Northern RRC; Rena Schonbrun, Librarian, Western RRC; Veronica Lefebvre, Coordinator, Regional Document Delivery System, NAL; Wendy H. Kramer, Librarian, Eastern RRC; Carol Ditzler, Head, Lending Branch, NAL; Maria Pisa, Acting Head, Reference Branch, NAL; Jo Ann Schoonmaker, Librarian, Russell RC; Margarite Flourent, then acting Librarian, Southern RRC; Walter Winant, Information Specialist, ASWCL; Rhoda Ratner, then an NAL intern from the Smithsonian Institution Libraries; and Keith Russell, Chief, Public Services Division, NAL.

reports, ARS authored reprint collections, and other materials. Each year the RRC libraries, along with libraries in general, are faced with the need to review their journal subscriptions and monograph purchases because of increased costs and limited budgets. To assure and maintain good core research collections onsite—providing rapid access to major research journals in core subjects—the field libraries are identifying core lists of journals that reflect the research focus at each center, including policies for adding and dropping journal subscriptions on an annual basis.

**Staff.** Despite little or no increase in staff, the demand increases for quicker access to more information in various formats including abstracts and/or full-text online, diskette, CD-ROM, and print sources. The library staffs generally consist of a librarian and one to two full-time-equivalent library technicians. A library advisory committee or council of leading scientists assists the librarian with policies, procedures, services and related special projects. At smaller ARS laboratories without libraries, a scientist or support staff may oversee, on a part-time basis, small collections of journals, books, and other materials which may be housed in a multi-purpose room.

**Automation.** Two levels of automation are occurring in the field. ARS field libraries are participating with NAL in

the cooperative online catalog/ISIS project, and individual ARS library automation efforts are at various stages of development and implementation. The Russell Research Center library has installed INMAGIC textbase software to automate acquisitions, serials check-in, interlibrary loan, and to create an online catalog. At the Russell Research Center, all laboratories will be able to connect to the library's online catalog through the Center's Local Area Network (LAN). The Russell Research Center's long-range automation plans include dial-up access to Russell's automated system for ARS laboratories in remote locations within the South Atlantic Area.

The Northern Regional Research Center (NRRC) has an automated serials check-in system that is maintained on the Center's mainframe computer. The Eastern Regional Research Center (ERRC) uses FILLS, an interlibrary loan software program, to manage external document delivery service functions and utilizes SAS programs developed at the Center to automate internal circulation procedures and reporting mechanisms. The ERRC library uses desktop publishing software routinely to produce its monthly acquisitions list, flyers on library services and programs, and other printed products.

**Networking.** For the ARS RRC libraries, the key to keeping pace with information service demands is through



photo: Keith Russell

While visiting the NRRC, NAL staff members participated in a meeting with the center director and research leaders. They joined similar meetings at each of the research centers during site visits in 1989.

increased use of the latest technologies and assumption of a more participatory role in networking and resource sharing on all levels. The field libraries have participated in network activities and services for many years. FEDLINK and the Online Computer Library Center, Inc., (OCLC) provide administrative support services and online access to catalogs of libraries in the United States, Canada, and Europe. The NRRC library is a member of the Illinois Library and Information Network (ILLINET) and the ERRC library is a member of the Pennsylvania Interlibrary Loan Document Delivery System (IDS) that provides statewide access to documents. The ERRC also participates in the Greater Northeastern Regional Medical Library Program. The Southern Regional Research Center library participates in a cooperative, daily document delivery system with the University of New Orleans and the Louisiana State University Medical Center libraries.

In the future the role of the ARS field libraries may be expanded as their holdings are added to NAL's integrated library system, ISIS. As members of networks, ARS libraries are able to access an array of technical processing services and holdings of all types of libraries—virtually unlimited access to online catalogs, cataloging systems, and online databases from around the world.

### ARS/NAL Project

In past years the involvement of the ARS field libraries with NAL has varied. The current level of cooperation between NAL and the ARS field libraries is changing as a result of joint efforts between NAL and ARS resulting in the ARS/NAL Project (see *ALIN*, April 1988). The overall plan of the project involves strengthening the ability of the ARS field libraries to serve their users through increased use of new technologies and support from NAL. The long-range project goal involves improvement in the delivery of information through electronic linkages and integration of ARS

libraries with the resources of local universities, NAL, and the larger agricultural information community.

### ARS/NAL Project Major Objectives

**Expand NAL's Integrated System for Information Services (ISIS) to ARS Libraries.** ISIS became available to a select group on an experimental basis in the fall of 1988. It currently contains NAL's cataloging records from 1966 to December 1989.

In February 1989, the five ARS Regional Research Center libraries and the Appalachian Soil & Water Conservation Research Laboratory were provided dial-up access to ISIS as participants in an evaluation of the system. ARS librarians, individual scientists, and other research center staff are contributing to the study by searching ISIS and providing feedback on their search experiences to NAL. Arlene Luchsinger, Head, Science Library,

University of Georgia, is coordinating the ISIS evaluation, through which networking benefits of ISIS for other libraries will be determined.

In October, NAL loaded a test file of 1,000 Northern Regional Research Center library records into ISIS. Don Blevins, librarian, NRRC, visited NAL, October 23-26 to review and add the NRRC library's call numbers to records in the test file. The NRRC library is participating in a pilot project with NAL to test procedures and develop guidelines related to the addition of holdings of the ARS field libraries to ISIS.

The ARS libraries have collections that could be shared with other ARS libraries and NAL. With the addition of their holdings and NAL's indexing records (most recent two years of AGRICOLA) to ISIS, the integrated library system may serve as a union catalog for agricultural information, providing dial-up access to over 1.5 million books, journal articles, technical reports, state publications, translations, microforms, and other materials. ARS Research Center researchers and other staff will have electronic access to their own and other library collections from a computer in the office or the laboratory, and may through the same electronic system request the document from a library.

**Cooperative Acquisition and Cataloging of ARS Libraries' Materials.** Beginning in October, the NAL Cataloging and Acquisitions branches entered into a pilot project with the Southern Regional Research Center (SRRRC) library in New Orleans. The study will run from October 1989 through June 1990 and will provide a detailed look into whether centralized processing at NAL is timely and cost-effective for the acquisition and cataloging of materials for ARS libraries.

**Establish an ARS Coordinator Position at NAL.** In February 1989 NAL hired Peggy Beavers to serve as a resource person to communicate with the ARS field



librarians and managers on technical considerations, development of policies, standards, guidelines, and operating procedures between ARS field libraries and NAL.

**Review of the Current Awareness Literature Services (CALS).** CALS is NAL's current awareness literature service for USDA personnel. Machine-readable tapes of 13 databases are scanned and listings are provided monthly to CALS users. The listings are produced according to predetermined, electronically stored profiles. Databases covered are: *AGRICOLA*; *Aquatic Sciences and Fisheries Abstracts*; *Biological Abstracts*; *Biological Abstracts/RRM*; *Chemical Abstracts*; *Government Reports Announcements*; *Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux (CAB) database*; *Engineering Index*; *Food Science and Technology Abstracts*; *Water Resources Abstracts*; *Telegen*; *World Textile Abstracts*; and the *Zoological Record*.

CALS has been reviewed to determine future enhancements and cost saving measures. NAL has implemented some recommendations from a 1988 study on alternatives for selective dissemination of information to USDA. CALS profiles are being updated periodically and mailings are being consolidated. The Information Systems Division staff reactivated CALS workshops for scientists on an as needed or requested basis. In September workshops were held at the Eastern Regional Research and the Northern Regional Research Centers. CALS workshops will be held in March and April 1990 at the Southern and Western Regional Research Centers.

**Use of New Technologies and Electronic Communications. Computer Workstations.** NAL staff identified equipment needed for an end user computer workstation. Each RRC library has set up an ISIS/CD-ROM/End-User compatible workstation with selected software programs and products. The workstations support use of new technologies which can be made readily available to users. *AGRICOLA* on CD-ROM is now available at the ARS RRC libraries.

**Demonstration Centers.** The RRC libraries are designated demonstration sites for selected new NAL and other technology applications. As new products such as *Science Citation Index Compact Disc Edition* and *Current Contents on Diskette* become available, they are circulated to the RRC libraries for review and use by the Center staff. *AGRICOLearn*, An Interactive Videodisc Training Program, developed by the University of Maryland and NAL, is currently on loan to the RRC libraries. This training program provides instruction and practice on searching the *AGRICOLA* database; it also introduces new users to online searching and it may be used as a refresher course for experienced users who search *AGRICOLA* and other files on *DIALOG* and *BRS*. *AGRICOLearn* is designed to assist



photo: Keith Russell

The NAL staff also met with the Northern Regional Research Center Library Committee during the site visit. Such committees at each of the research centers play a major role in advising NAL and field library staff about information needs and priorities of the scientists.

library staff with providing online searching assistance to patrons onsite.

**Telefacsimile.** Each RRC field library has a telefacsimile (FAX) machine or convenient access to a machine. FAXing is the wave of the late 1980s. It is a method regularly used to transmit documents needed in a hurry between NAL and the field. A "RUSH FAX" service between NAL's Lending Branch and the ASWCRL was implemented on an experimental basis, and is now a standard option for document delivery services.

**Electronic Mail.** ARS field libraries and the NAL staff routinely use electronic mail to share ideas and obtain feedback on various matters. A variety of systems are being used including *Telemail* and *Dialcom*.

**Electronic Bulletin Board.** ALF (Agriculture Library Forum), NAL's electronic bulletin board, became available in 1988 and is becoming more popular among users. ALF provides ready access to news bulletins on NAL's programs and services, messages/conferences, and specialized bibliographies and lists such as the *List of Journals Indexed in AGRICOLA*. Users may print while searching online or download text or data files including full-text of bibliographic publications, technical notes, and expert advisory systems developed by NAL and other users. An 800 telephone number for accessing ALF is now available.

**Staff Development Program for ARS Librarians at the National Agricultural Library.** NAL has established a staff development program for ARS field librarians. Orientation and training sessions are being planned annually, and/or as needed, to provide ongoing participation in and updates on NAL's programs, services, and use of new technologies to the staffs of field libraries. The program will consist of a one-week session of meetings, workshops, demonstrations,

discussions on various topics and field trips to other libraries. The next session is planned for the spring 1990.

**Compilation of a Manual of Procedures for ARS Field Libraries.** A manual of operating guidelines for the ARS field libraries is being developed. ARS Regional Research Center libraries' policies and procedures are being reviewed, updated, and streamlined, and suggested operating procedures will be identified. The manual will serve to identify the NAL role in these procedures.

**Conduct a Library Automation Study to Determine a Blueprint for Configuring an ARS Library of the Future.** NAL and ARS field libraries will conduct a library automation study after technical processing issues are explored and resolved.

**Assess the Information Needs of ARS Scientists at Remote Laboratories without Libraries.** Another major emphasis of the ARS/NAL Project is to improve access to information by scientists in remote areas where library materials and services are limited. In some instances, the nearest research library is hundreds of miles away, making rapid access to information a real problem. To minimize the problem to some extent, ARS personnel at the laboratories share personal subscriptions and other materials. In the summer of 1988, NAL staff reviewed the information needs of the Appalachian Soil & Water Conservation Research Laboratory scientists and is exploring solutions to several issues that were identified.

NAL recently entered into a cooperative project with the University of California, Davis, General Library through which an extensive review will be conducted of library services to ARS researchers in remote areas.

## Summary

During the past year significant progress was made with the ARS/NAL Project initiatives toward improving access to information services for ARS personnel. NAL and ARS are committed toward achieving this goal and face many challenges ahead. We encourage feedback from the ARS community as a whole and others who are interested in addressing the issues and projects discussed toward improvement in the delivery of agricultural information services.

Further information about the ARS/NAL Project contact:

*Peggy J. Beavers  
NAL/ARS Coordinator  
National Agricultural Library, Rm 100  
10301 Baltimore Boulevard.  
Beltsville, Maryland 20705*

Or call: (301) 344-3834



photo: J. Swab

Kathleen Dougherty, Cataloger, NAL (L) and Peggy Beavers, ARS Coordinator, NAL, look over the shoulder of Donald L. Blevins, Librarian, Northern Regional Research Center, as he inputs data related to NRRC Library holdings into AGRICOLA.

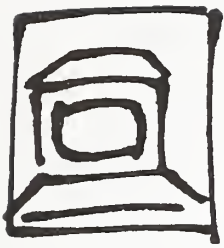
## Northern Regional Research Center Library's Holdings Loaded into ISIS

On October 23-26, 1989, Don Blevins, Librarian, Northern Regional Research Center (NRRC) in Peoria, Illinois, visited the National Agricultural Library (NAL) as part of the participation of the NRRC Library in a pilot project with NAL. The purpose of the project is to identify and evaluate procedures for adding holdings of the five ARS Regional Research Center libraries to ISIS, NAL's Integrated System for Information Services. During his stay at NAL, Mr. Blevins, assisted by Diana Claburn, NAL cataloging technician, added the NRRC library's call numbers to approximately 500 ISIS cataloging records. The NAL Technical Services Division staff is continuing to add NRRC holdings to 500 unique records in ISIS. A test file of 1,000 records from the NRRC library has been tape loaded into ISIS to allow for development of guidelines for adding the holdings of ARS field libraries to NAL's online catalog.

The addition of the holdings of ARS libraries to ISIS represents the second phase of one of ten major initiatives of the ARS/NAL Project which was implemented about two years ago. The project resulted from a review of the operations of ARS Regional Research Center libraries by a team of NAL and ARS managers. The first phase began in February 1989 when the five ARS Regional Research Center libraries and the Appalachian Soil & Water Conservation Research Laboratory in Beckley, West Virginia were connected to ISIS. They are participating in an evaluation of the system to determine networking benefits of NAL's online catalog for other libraries.

—Peggy Beavers





**AGRICOLA**



**News  
Notes**

## **AGRICOLA Available on CD-ROM from Third Vendor – Quanta**

Quanta Press, Inc., of St. Paul, Minnesota has announced the release of a new version of AGRICOLA on CD-ROM. The Quanta CD-ROM includes AGRICOLA records produced from 1985 through September 1989.

Quanta will publish updated versions of AGRICOLA four times a year and plans to issue a "back-file" of AGRICOLA records in the second quarter of 1990.

This new CD-ROM uses Romware software for indexing as well as for search and retrieval. It provides hyper-text, boolean, and key word searching.

The new disk sells for \$99.00 per copy or \$395.00 for a one year subscription. The back-file will be available for \$395.00.

For further information contact:

*Dennis Burke*

*Quanta Press, Inc.*

*2550 University Avenue West, Suite 245N*

*St. Paul, MN 55114*

Or call: (612) 641-0714

In addition AGRICOLA on CD-ROM will continue to be available from SilverPlatter Information, Inc., and OCLC, Inc. They can be contacted at the following addresses:

*Christopher Pooley*

*SilverPlatter Information, Inc.*

*37 Walnut Street*

*Wellesley, MA 02181*

Or call: 800-343-0064

*Mary Marshall*

*OCLC Online Computer Library*

*Center, Inc.*

*6565 Frantz Road*

*Dublin, OH 43017*

Or call: (614) 764-6287

For additional information on NAL's AGRICOLA database, contact:

*Martha Feldman*

*AGRICOLA Database Coordinator*

*National Agricultural Library*

*10301 Baltimore Boulevard, 5th Floor*

*Beltsville, MD 20705*

Or call: (301) 344-3813

—Martha Feldman

## **NAL Expands Cooperation With Soviet Union**

**by Sarah E. Thomas**

**Chief, Technical Services Division, NAL**

The ninth meeting on the U.S.-U.S.S.R. Joint Committee on Cooperation in Agriculture took place in Moscow on December 4-8, 1989. U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture for International Affairs and Commodity Programs Richard T. Crowder led the U.S. delegation. Crowder and Deputy Chairman for the U.S.S.R. State Commission on Food and Procurement Y.A. Borisov signed a protocol agreeing to exchange teams in the field of forestry, agricultural economics, agricultural science, and food processing in 1990 and 1991.

Dr. Sarah E. Thomas, Chief, Technical Services Division, represented NAL on the Joint Committee's Economic Research and Information (ERI) Working Group. Information exchange is an important component of the agreement, and as part of the protocol, the National Agricultural Library and the Central Scientific Agricultural Library (CSAL) significantly expanded the list of publications exchanged by the



photo: Ed Cissel, FAS, USDA

U.S. members of the US-USSR Joint Working Group on Agricultural Economic Research & Information, including Sarah Thomas, Chief, Technical Services, NAL, (third from the left), visit the Agro-Industrial Combine "Moskva" in Moscow, December 6, 1989.



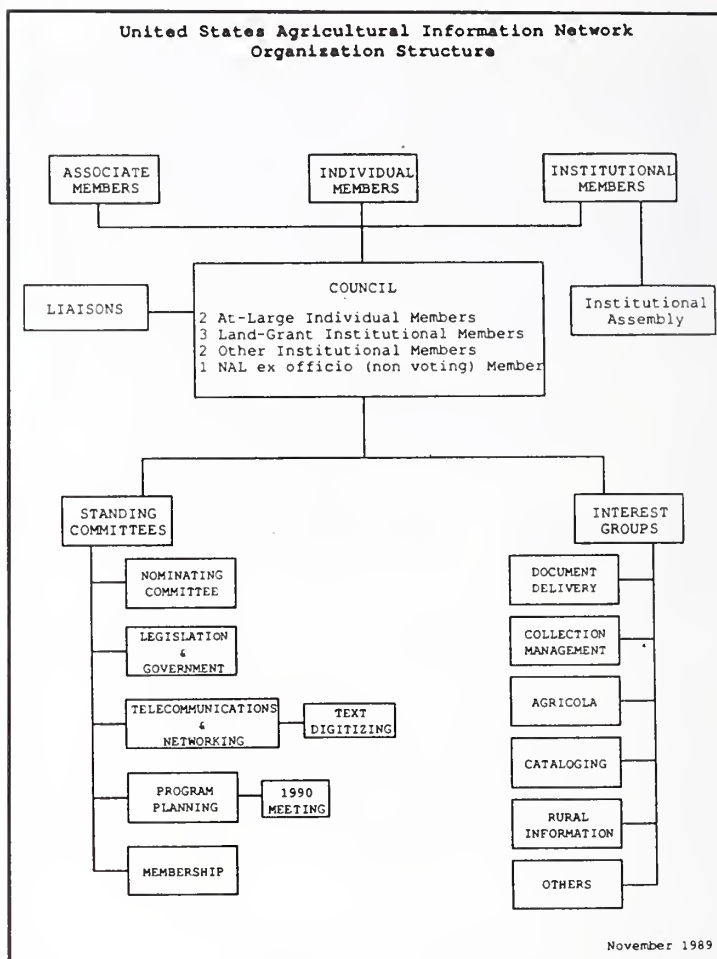
photo: Ed Cissel, FAS, USDA

Viktor G. Pozdnyakov, Director, Central Scientific Agricultural Library, Moscow, met with Sarah Thomas, Chief, Technical Services Division, NAL, while she was in Moscow for the meeting of the US-USSR Joint Working Group on Agricultural Economic Research and Information.

two institutions. While in Moscow, Dr. Thomas met with V. G. Pozdnyakov, Director of the CSAL, and several key staff to discuss enhancements to the current exchange relationship between the two exchange partners. NAL and CSAL librarians propose to visit in Moscow and in Beltsville during 1990 to consider additional areas of cooperation.

On December 6, the ERI Working Group visited the All-Union Research Institute of Information, Technical and Economic Studies in Agriculture (VNIITEISKH), which prepares 80,000 citations to foreign and domestic agricultural literature annually. The Institute romanizes a fraction of these citations for contribution to AGRIS. Thomas and Dr. V. N. Tyurnin, Deputy Director, explored possible areas in which NAL and the Institute could work together in the information field, including database exchange. NAL and VNIITEISKH will consider potential avenues of cooperation in the coming months.

The National Agricultural Library has a strong collection of Soviet agricultural literature, which it seeks to improve through increasing its cooperation with its counterparts in the Soviet Union. Recent analysis of NAL's Soviet holdings by NAL staff with expertise in Russian indicated that NAL needs to collect more aggressively, particularly in the area of statistical publications and documents published by regional research institutes in the Soviet Republics. M. Esman, M. Thompson, and S. Kosecki recently surveyed several USDA researchers who specialize in Soviet agriculture. Their interests included reindeer management, biological control, polar circle range and forest management, passive microwave remote sensing of soil moisture, economic outlook, cooperatives, yield, and forecasts. NAL plans to expand its Russian language acquisitions to address these research interests. Caroline Early, Head, Acquisitions and Serials Branch, NAL, encourages agricultural scientists to recommend to her specific Russian titles for the library to acquire. Titles will be requested through NAL's Exchange and Gift unit or purchased.



## USAIN Membership Drive

The United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) is conducting its 1990 membership drive. Individuals and institutions interested in information activities relating to agriculture, food, human ecology, natural resources, and rural sociology are invited to become charter members of USAIN.

Committed to the strengthening of agricultural libraries and information services and to promoting cooperation and communication among its members, USAIN fills a void in the agricultural information community. USAIN members have the opportunity to shape agricultural information policy, to evaluate new information technologies, and to participate in a forum for discussion of agricultural information issues.

USAIN activities currently underway include the work of the National Agricultural Text Digitizing Project, a subgroup of USAIN's Telecommunications & Networking Committee, planning for USAIN's first major agricultural program meeting scheduled for November 1990 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and an initiative relating to coordinated coverage and access to agricultural biotechnology information. Individual and institution members will elect officers in May 1990.

For additional information about USAIN, contact:



John W. Beecher  
President, USAIN  
Director of Libraries  
North Dakota State University  
 Fargo, North Dakota 58105-5599

Telephone: (701) 237-8887

Membership applications should be sent to:

Dr. Melvin George  
USAIN Treasurer  
Director of Libraries  
Oregon State University  
William Jasper Kerr Library  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

Clip or xerox the USAIN Membership Form at right and mail it today!

## United States Agricultural Information Network: Genesis of a Cooperative Organization

Sarah E. Thomas  
Chief, Technical Services Division, NAL

[Reprinted with permission from *Special Libraries*,  
80(2):113-117, Spring 1989]

Informal networking has been a tradition in the agricultural information community. In the last five years, however, the National Agricultural Library (NAL) has worked assiduously to bring a formal organization into being. NAL's efforts have led to the formation of the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN), an association whose goal is to provide a forum for discussion of agricultural information issues. Under the leadership of four librarians elected as first officers of the organization in 1988, a structure to achieve this goal is being proposed for consideration by potential members.

In the spring of 1988, officers of an agricultural libraries information network, a network so new that it [was] without a formal name, were elected. With their election a loose affiliation of agricultural libraries and information centers began to make a more distinct shape. Agricultural librarians, unlike law librarians or medical information professionals, have always lacked a professional organization that concentrated solely on the interests of agriculture and its related sciences. The Science and Technology Section of the Association of College and Research Libraries of the American Library Association (ALA) has provided one forum for discussion of agricultural information issues, and the Food and Nutrition Division of the Special Libraries Association (SLA) has served as another outlet. Yet there has been no single group specifically targeted for agricultural librarians that considered significant issues facing agricultural information specialists. Within the ALA and

## UNITED STATES AGRICULTURAL INFORMATION NETWORK

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I would like to join USAIN

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP DUES 1990

INDIVIDUAL .....	\$15
INSTITUTIONAL .....	\$250
ASSOCIATE .....	\$500

Checks payable to USAIN

Clip or xerox this form and Mail to:

Dr. Melvin George  
USAIN Treasurer  
Director of Libraries  
Oregon State University  
William Jasper Kerr Library  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

SLA, a broad range of interests were defined, but agriculture per se occupied a less prominent role. Furthermore, agricultural librarians tended to support one organization or the other, but they did not usually attend meetings of both associations; there are few individuals who have both the financial resources and time to be deeply committed and active in both the ALA and SLA. Consequently, there has been a divided constituency for agricultural interests.

An informal agricultural information network is a long tradition. Land-grant libraries and the National Agricultural Library (NAL) have worked together "in varying degrees of effectiveness" since the early 1900s.(1) The NAL did recognize the need to formalize the relationship in the



late 1960s, and with the aid of EDUCOM, developed a network development plan which was submitted to NAL for implementation in 1969.(2) Although an Agricultural Sciences Information Network Committee was appointed in 1971, and a Conference for the Implementation of the Agricultural Science Information Network took place in 1975, efforts to create a viable network were not successful.(3) The 1977 Farm Bill contained language strongly supporting cooperative agricultural information activities, but funding that would have secured the existence of an agricultural information network never materialized.(4)

A little over six years ago, a review group, convened as the Blue Ribbon Panel on the National Agricultural Library, planted the seed for the re-emergence of the concept of an agricultural information network. The Blue Ribbon Panel, more formally known as the Interagency Panel on the National Agricultural Library, was comprised of leaders from the library and information fields and from the United States Department of Agriculture. In 1982, its members assessed the role of the NAL for the secretary of agriculture and strongly recommended the NAL "coordinate a national network of public and private agricultural libraries and information centers, including libraries of land-grant colleges and universities, state supported colleges and universities, and other public and private sector organizations involved in agricultural information."(5)

Since the Interagency Panel first transmitted its recommendations to Secretary of Agriculture John Block in August 1982, the NAL, under the leadership of Director Joseph H. Howard, has endeavored to bring a network to life. The NAL has hosted numerous meetings in conjunction with the annual and midwinter meetings of the ALA and SLA, during which NAL staff met with librarians and information professionals representing a broad spectrum of the agricultural information community. At the ALA meetings, NAL participants came mostly from the land-grant universities; at the SLA meetings attendees were librarians from food and feed industries as well as from universities and information centers. At these meetings, the NAL attempted to form a group of information specialists and managers interested in the agricultural sciences. Although the NAL often dominated the meetings with reports of its own activities, other members of the agricultural information community had opportunities to speak on relevant projects going on outside of the NAL.

One of the most significant milestones in the genesis of an agricultural libraries and information network was the preparation of a planning document for the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant and Colleges. The NASULGC Subcommittee on Agricultural Information requested a network planning document in which strategies and plans for networking among agriculturally-oriented colleges, universities, and the NAL would be outlined. As a result, the NAL compiled a 20-page document, the "National Agricultural Library and Information Network Plan," which detailed possible areas of cooperation. According to this NASULGC planning document, circulated in draft form to agricultural librarians in 1987, "The goal of network development is to assist all potential users in accessing and utilizing agriculturally-related information, through the provision of comprehensive,

effective, and efficient library and information services, and useful information products, while minimizing wasteful duplication of effort and resources."(6) Potential participants spanned a wide number of groups, including land-grant universities, historically black colleges and universities, the MacIntyre-Stennis Forestry School libraries, veterinary medical libraries, USDA, state, and federal libraries and information centers, rural public libraries, special libraries in agribusiness and industry, and international agricultural information systems. Cooperative collection development, shared cataloging and indexing programs, collaborative projects utilizing new technologies, and training were envisioned as potential networking activities. The NAL would act as the coordinator of the network, and "would take the lead in seeking authority and appropriations, as well as other funding, to support development of the network and its component organization,"(7) according to the document.

NAL Director Joseph H. Howard invited discussion of the network plan at a meeting of interested agricultural librarians on January 12, 1988 in San Antonio, Texas. Through comments made at this meeting and letters received at the NAL, librarians and others working in the field of agricultural information made clear they supported the concept of an agricultural libraries and information centers network. Understandably, there were many different perspectives on the exact nature of the proposed organization, but a commonly shared value was that the development of a new organization was necessary. Assuming its role as network coordinator, the NAL tapped leaders in the land-grant library community to serve on a nominating committee. In the spring of 1988, a nominating committee consisting of Arlene Luchsinger, assistant librarian, Science and Branches, University of Georgia; Joanne Harrar, director, University of Maryland Libraries; Shelly Phipps, acting librarian, University of Arizona; and Michael Kinch, then assistant head, Sci-Tech Library, Oregon State University, solicited nominations for officers for the as yet unnamed network and produced a slate of candidates who were elected by mail ballot in June 1988. Officers are president, Nancy Eaton, director of libraries, University of Vermont; vice-president, president-elect, John Beecher, director, North Dakota State University Library; secretary, Carol Boast, agriculture librarian, University of Illinois; and treasurer, Melvin George, director of libraries, Oregon State University.

Following their election, the officers met in New Orleans during ALA's annual meeting in July 1988 and were introduced to those attending the NAL update session that took place in conjunction with the meeting. Foremost in the discussion of the officers and participating NAL staff were concerns about the exact nature of the organization. These four librarians and representatives from NAL were to be pioneers in establishing a new entity, and their challenge was to develop an effective structure for accomplishing the stated objectives of the network-fostering and advancing access to agricultural information through cooperation of agricultural librarians and information specialists. At the end of October 1988, the officers joined Director Joseph Howard and other NAL managers to think intensively and creatively about the shape and future of the network. On

their agenda were such items as bylaws, membership criteria, organization name, and the relationship of the network to the NASULGC Division of Agricultural Libraries Liaison Committee. Their task was to define, for themselves and for a somewhat amorphous constituency, an organization both effective and capable of earning support from those working in the field of agricultural information.

One of the first and most important items considered was what the organization was and was not. It was strongly believed the network should not be a network in the sense that OCLC or RLIN was, nor should it be a separate professional organization that competed with the ALA or SLA for membership. NAL wanted to play a part in the organization, it did not presume to always be in the leadership role. The officers agreed dues should be kept to a minimum to avoid members having to choose between the agricultural libraries network and their primary professional organization. Another important membership consideration was whether memberships should be institutional or individual. Eventually the board recommended there be three categories of membership: individual, institutional, and non-voting associate. This mix seemed to profile the best basis of support and commitment as well as the greatest flexibility, for allowing participation in the network. Thus, an individual agricultural librarian could be active in the network, even if his or her employer chose not to belong. At the same time, the officers concluded, solid support from major agricultural libraries is required to get a fledgling organization off the ground, so the category of institutional membership is essential.

From the outset, the group unanimously agreed the network should be open to any person or institution interested in agricultural information. The NAL's primary connection had been with land-grant university libraries, and there was sensitivity on the part of other librarians and agricultural information professionals that they were being excluded or not given an equal forum for expression and articulation of their perspectives. From a pragmatic point of view, the officers' challenge was in bringing together a group of people with a common focus on agriculture while keeping costs low. Since there was no desire to form a wholly separate professional organization similar to the Medical Library Association or the American Association of Law Libraries that would significantly add to participants' travel budgets, the officers tried to develop a solution that would account for the divided professional loyalties currently existing. Consequently, they recommended an annual meeting of the institutional assembly should take place as designated by a council, or governing board, but that business meetings would take place at ALA and SLA events with mailed ballots following. The officers tried to balance the representation of groups and individuals involved, finally arriving at a proposal for a council comprised of three representatives from land-grant institutions, two representatives from other institutions, two selected at large from the individuals belonging to the NASULGC, and the director of the NAL, who would serve in an ex officio capacity. Council members would serve two-year terms and would elect their own officers. Responsibilities of the council would be to oversee fiscal affairs, budgeting, and overall planning for the network. To carry out the work of the organization, the officers advised the

formation of three standing committees: nominating, legislative and government relations, and telecommunications and networking. They also envisioned a structure incorporating various interest groups such as collection development, bibliographic control, resource sharing, and education and training. Through the committees, the membership could expect to influence federal legislation promoting agricultural information objectives and raise its voice in support of federal funding of cooperative endeavors in the agricultural information community, while the interest groups could address actual programmatic areas. Enough funding had been added to NAL's appropriation for fiscal year 1989 to bring officers together for planning sessions and to fund some of NAL's role in coordinating the network. Ideally, NAL would be able to fund several aspects of network cooperation, perhaps offering grants to strengthen collections along the medical model.

One of the most difficult topics of discussion was the name of the organization. After considerable debate, the officers selected "United States Agricultural Information Network" as a working name to stand until the organization and its bylaws could be approved by the membership. With the details of membership, bylaws, and general structure reasonably fleshed out, officers began to work on a timetable for official recognition and incorporation of the network. An opportunity to present their proposals to potential membership would come in January 1989 at the ALA midwinter meeting in Washington, DC. Because of the NAL's proximity to Washington, those interested in the network were invited to attend an open house at NAL, where they were promised a chance for open discussion with network officers about the purpose and function of the new network. A similar program is planned to take place in conjunction with SLA's annual meeting in New York in June. After these open discussions and wide distribution of the proposed bylaws for comment, the officers plan to revise the documents to reflect new insights gained through the input of potential members. Members will be formally recruited throughout 1989, and a new nominating committee will convene in January 1990 to prepare a competitive slate of candidates for a mail election targeted for April 1990. New officers will take office on July 1, 1990.

As with any new organization, it is expected the United States Agricultural Information Network (USAIN) will be a dynamic association that will evolve and change as it matures. Initially, those involved in its creation are trying to keep its structure as simple and flexible as possible. Their foremost concern is to maintain a forum for the discussion of agricultural information issues. The network's goal is to promote and facilitate access to agricultural information for those who use and need this information. Essential for the completion of this goal is cooperation; by working together, libraries and information centers can accomplish far more than they can do as separate entities. By sharing resources, joining in cooperative programs for collection development, cataloging, indexing, participating in joint endeavors exploring new technologies, and using their collective talents and strengths creatively, a strong agricultural information community can be bonded together to better serve and assist all agricultural information professionals.

(See USAIN References, p. 22, col. 1.)





## Butler Retires



photo: D. Starr

Helen Butler

On the 29th of December Helen Butler retired after 26 years in the Federal Government. Except for two years with the Veterans Administration, Ms. Butler's career was with the National Agricultural Library serving the users in the circulation unit of the Lending Branch, Public Services Division. During her career Ms. Butler advanced through a number of technician positions and promotions. Her service has been at the circula-

tion desk, the information desk, the telephone inquiry desk, and others, where she has performed loan duties, catalog searching, quick reference and information services, and directed patrons in person or via the telephone to other service areas. She has also served as a tour guide and worked on various committees, such as the Awards Committee and the former Library Employees Advisory Committee (LEAC). Her services to users and her pleasant cooperation with her fellow workers have made her a joy for all who have known her, and have earned her the gratitude and commendation of library users and staff. She has received commendations and thanks from numerous persons whom she has helped, many through NAL's Director, and all say in the manner of a recent letter from Congressman Donald E. Lukens' office, "Thank you very much for your assistance with this project, Helen. We do appreciate people like you."

In his retirement greetings to Ms. Butler, Mr. Howard said, "I cannot picture the Circulation Desk without you sitting at it! Staff and patrons will certainly miss the courteous and efficient service you have provided during your 24 years of service to the National Agricultural Library. You are to be commended for your devotion and fine work in the agricultural community."

Before coming to the government Ms. Butler worked as a practical nurse after completing her training at the Margaret Miller Washington School of Nursing. While working at NAL, she has completed several library related courses at

NAL and the USDA graduate school.

In retirement Ms. Butler will have more time for family activities. Her husband, Albert Butler, is retired from the government and is now working in private industry. They have four children and six grandchildren.

When asked about what she most looks forward to in retirement, Ms. Butler responded, "I'll be catching up on things I enjoy doing. I like swimming, ice skating, and skiing. I love to dance! And I'm going to travel. I'm going to Mexico next April." When asked what she would miss in retirement, she said, "I'm going to miss the people—both the people I work with and the patrons who come in. What I'm not going to miss—I'm going to be most grateful not to have to get up at 6:00 in the morning!"

—Joseph N. Swab

## Ostroff Retires

Although he expects to be coming back to work as a volunteer on several publications, Jesse Ostroff retired at the end of December 1989. In addition he expects to be getting some "sweat equity" as he remodels his house in retirement.

At the time of Mr. Ostroff's retirement Mr. Howard, NAL Director, said, "Your devotion to the public service during your 40-year career with the Federal government is commendable. I know the services you have provided to a countless number of patrons over the past 20 years at NAL will create a void that will be difficult to fill. I speak for many when I thank you for all you have done to provide the very finest information service to the worldwide agricultural community."

Mr. Ostroff joined the NAL staff in 1969 as a Reference Librarian and has continued service in the reference area in various NAL public service units ever since. During this time he has served as technical liaison for animal science and industry and has worked with animal scientists and veterinarians in Beltsville and in the field. He has authored or compiled a number of NAL publications, including the *International Directory of Animal Health and Disease Data Banks*; *Dairy Technology and Production*, *A List of Serials*; and a number of *Quick Bibliographies*, etc. He is currently working on a *List of Herd, Flock, and Stud Books in the Collections of NAL*. He tracked down the parts of the *History of Veterinary Medicine*, by Leon Moulé, arranged to have it translated, and is working on publication of the translation.

In his work with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection



photo: D. Starr

Jesse Ostroff



Service (APHIS), Mr. Ostroff helped set up EMERPRO, the Emergency Programs bibliographic database on exotic animal diseases, which now covers all animal diseases that have potential to cause crises in the U.S. He also helped APHIS set up the Brucellosis database which used to be a subfile in AGRICOLA, and is now in EMERPRO. He helped the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) and the Extension Service (ES) to set up a cooperative Information Center on Meat and Poultry Residues with a consortium of five centers at universities. On a cooperative agreement with West Virginia University he was program manager of a project which developed an expert system on dairy cattle *Integrated Reproduction Management*. In the past he has completed a number of major projects, including the much-publicized DDT project, in which he worked with USDA's Bureau of Entomology and collected, indexed, and documented all of the world's literature on the effect of the use of DDT on human health, animal life, and the environment in preparation for the hearings before the Environmental Protection Agency which determined the future of use of DDT in the U.S.

Mr. Ostroff worked for several years as a cadet in the U.S. Merchant Marine before earning his undergraduate degree in chemistry at the University of Rochester. While working for the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Therapeutic Agents for 2 years, he completed graduate work at the University of Pennsylvania in Veterinary Pharmacology. He earned his Masters in Library Science at Columbia University. He worked at the Walter Reed Army Service Graduate School, Army Institute of Research, for 6 years as editor of all veterinary publications. Then he worked at the National Science Foundation, Office of Information for 4 years as an analyst working primarily with grants administration and on scientific and technical publications. He worked for nearly 3 years at the Office of Technical Services, U.S. Department of Commerce (now NTIS) as head of the Chemical Bibliographic Reference Service. For the 6 years prior to coming to NAL, he worked at the U.S. Public Health Service, Dental Health Program, in charge of the Fluoridation Information Service.

Mr. Ostroff's wife, Harriet, is the Editor and Head of the *National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections* at the Library of Congress. Their daughter, Vivian, is the head of the poultry unit and founded and heads the library of Kibbutz Gezer between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel. The Ostroff's two sons, Daniel and Maury, work in the computer field in New York.

In speaking of his career at NAL, Mr. Ostroff said, "The greatest satisfaction I've had was to be in on the ground floor of many new and exciting scientific and technical research advances."

— Joseph N. Swab

## Waters Retires

At the end of December Samuel T. Waters, Associate Director of the National Agricultural Library retired. He joined the NAL staff in November 1970 as Deputy Director for Resource Development, and became Associate Director in 1974.



photo: J. Swab

Samuel T. Waters

In reviewing Mr. Waters' career and contributions at NAL, Joseph H. Howard, Director, said, "During the past several years the National Agricultural Library has made great strides in pursuing new technologies that have application to traditional library operations, and to expand the knowledge center concept of the Library. To a very large extent Mr. Waters was the person responsible for much of the progress at NAL."

Mr. Waters pioneered in the use of word processors at NAL in the early 1970's, the use of personal computers in the early 1980's, the automation of library operations, and the use of ever more sophisticated software to develop databases, expert systems, and other aids to storage, dissemination, and preservation of information such as video and digital disks. He has led the library in evaluating technology applications, equipment, and software, in obtaining funds to carry out these evaluations, in launching new projects, and in converting successful experiments into permanent operations. Mr. Howard said, "Mr. Waters' efforts were critical in successfully obtaining funds to explore new concepts and new technology applications to library operations and NAL programs. His special efforts in the overall research and development of new technologies for library application have contributed significantly towards moving NAL to a position of leadership in using and testing these technologies particularly in the automation and information fields."

Before coming to NAL, Mr. Waters had been Chief of the Reference Services Division and then Deputy Associate Director for Library Operations at the National Library of

Medicine (NLM). He began his library career in clerical and technical positions at the Library of Congress (LC) while earning his MSLS at Catholic University. He held professional positions at LC and several academic libraries, and rose to become Associate Director of Georgetown University Libraries before he returned to the government at NLM. Mr. Waters did his undergraduate work at the University of Colorado where he earned his BA in Philosophy and general studies, *summa cum laude*, and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.

It is interesting to note that even in his choice of undergraduate major, Mr. Waters was leading the way! For only today after 30 years of intense development of the computer field is philosophy and its emphasis on logical theory becoming hot in the development of systems for problem solving and artificial intelligence, which are among Mr. Waters' major interests as evidenced in his working with his colleagues at NAL. These interests have resulted in his leadership in development of expert systems at NAL, in teaching courses in expert systems locally and around the nation, and in leading his students to develop expert systems to meet the needs of information seekers and providers.

When asked what has given him greatest satisfaction in his tenure at NAL, Mr. Waters responded, "Watching the growth and expansion of the Library's systems through the last few years; seeing NAL become and be recognized as one of the foremost libraries in the world in terms of its outreach activities, cooperative programs, and its leadership in early application of advanced technologies." He said, "I will miss the people—very congenial and competent, open to experimentation and willing to take the initiative—friends." As for the future, Mr. Waters said that he looks forward to "personal growth in the areas of art and literature, and to the challenge to keep learning about new knowledge technologies, and to apply that knowledge in teaching and consulting." Mr. Waters will also be sharing his retirement activities with his wife and four children.

—Joseph N. Swab



USDA photo from NAL Special Collections  
Sam Waters holds the Wye Oak sapling which he planted for NAL in honor of the United States' Bicentennial in 1976 while Library staff watch. (See p. 16)

## Yiallouris Retires

At the end of December 1989, Mike Achilles Yiallouris retired. He joined the NAL staff in June 1965 as an Indexer, and remained in that position throughout his tenure at NAL, although several NAL reorganizations put the work he was doing in other units, such as the former Selection Section.

In his farewell to Mr. Yiallouris, NAL Director, Joseph H. Howard said, "Your career with the National Agricultural Library is truly notable and I am appreciative of all the fine work you have done over the past 25 years. Your dedication and expertise in the agricultural community will certainly be missed."



photo: J. Swab

Mike Yiallouris

Mr. Yiallouris earned his M.A. in Library Science and his B.S. in Education with majors in History and Latin at Kent State University in Ohio.

Mr. Yiallouris was born on the island of Cyprus and received his early education and work experience there. After working for a business for a couple of years in Sierra Leone in Africa, he came to the U.S. in 1952. He worked in Ohio until he was drafted and served two years in the U.S. Army. After completing his undergraduate work at Kent State, he taught Latin, French, and Social Studies in public schools in Ohio for 6 years. After earning his library degree, he worked in public libraries in Ohio, including 2 years at Canton, and a year at the University of Cincinnati before coming to NAL.

After retirement, Mr. Yiallouris plans to move back to Cyprus, to Yeri near Nicosia, where he owns some farm land and a house. He will also be doing some travelling in the Middle East and Mediterranean area.

When speaking of his career at NAL, Mr. Yiallouris said, "The two things which I liked best about NAL and will remember most are that I enjoyed the work and my personal relationships. I enjoyed doing my best at NAL; one gets a lot of satisfaction from a job well done. I enjoyed participating in the activities of NAL. The management gives one the feeling of participating and sharing. One is not just told what to do. The management consults with the workers—one experiences democracy in action. It's not like in other countries, or other places; there's a feeling of democratic management: one contributes, one is recognized, and one derives satisfaction from the results of the work."

—Joseph N. Swab



# New Employees



photo: J. Swab



photo: J. Swab



photo: J. Swab



photo: J. Swab

New employees pictured on these pages have been introduced to the Library staff since the last publication of photographs of groups of new employees in the September 1989 *ALIN*.

(Left Above) Tammy Doswell, Library Technician, Horticulture Information Center and Youth Development Information Center.

(Above L-R) Nelsie Jameson, Secretary, Reference Branch; Dr. Janice C. Kemp, Technical Information Specialist, Reference Branch, and Coordinator, Water Quality Information Center; and Jane Gates, who returned to NAL as a Librarian in the Alternative Farming Systems Information Center.

(Center Left, L-R) Nancy Turner, Librarian (Temporary), Indexing Branch and Reference Branch (Cooperative Agreement with the University of Maryland); Cathy Liverman, Student Aid (from the University of Maryland), Office of the Chief, Technical Services Division; Ronald McKenly, Student Aid (from Bowie State University), Acquisitions & Serials Branch; and Sherry Davids, Librarian, Cataloger, Cataloging Branch.

(Left Below, L-R) Marsha Hayleck, Clerk/Typist, Lending Branch; Delores Houchen, Secretary, Lending Branch; Nancy Thomson, Clerk/Typist, Aquaculture Information Center.

"New Employees" is continued on the following page.



## New Employees



photo: J. Swab

Brian W. Norris, Public Affairs Specialist, Office of the Director.



photo: J. Swab

(Above, L-R) Andrea Kissler, Library Technician, Acquisitions & Serials Branch; Martina Lydon, Librarian, Cataloger, Cataloging Branch; Maria Archer, Secretary, Office of the Director.



### Special Events

## Corncribs in America

Currently the National Agricultural Library is showing an exhibit entitled "Corncribs in America" in the rare books exhibit area in the lobby. It consists of enlarged photographs from Keith E. Roe's book *Corncribs In History, Folklife, and Architecture* and some related books from the NAL collections.

Dr. Keith E. Roe was raised on a farm near Williams, Iowa. He earned his undergraduate degree in horticulture at Iowa State University, and graduate degrees in botany at the University of Wisconsin and librarianship at the University of Oregon. He is currently the head of the Life Sciences Library at Penn State University.

All photographs on the next page are by Keith Roe.



photo: J. Swab

Dr. Keith E. Roe (Left) presents a copy of his book, *Corncribs in History, Folklife, and Architecture*, to Dr. Alan Fusonie, Head, Special Collections, NAL. The exhibit "Corncribs in America," consisting of enlarged photographs from Dr. Roe's book, is behind them.



A corncrib in Centre County, Pennsylvania, 1985.



A corncrib in disrepair in White County, Indiana, 1982, illustrates the fortune of these structures as new methods of drying and storing corn are used.



A Pennsylvania bank barn with attached single crib shed, Centre County, 1984.



A new corncrib built on an old pattern, combining wood frame with wire siding and classic shape. Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, 1982.



A pole and wire fence, triple corncrib, Centre County, Pennsylvania, 1985.

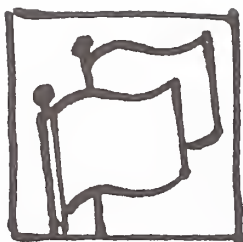


This obsolete concrete stave block corncrib sits like a monolith on an abandoned Iowa farmyard. Hamilton County, IA, 1983.



American as the crop it stores, this corncrib is decorated for the United States Bicentennial. The horizontal corn cribbing is a natural for stripes. Linn County, Iowa, 1982.





## Visitors



photo: J. Swab

NAL Director Joseph H. Howard (left) greets international visitors who came to NAL to discuss cooperative activities and receive updates on NAL projects and technology applications. (L-R) Jan van der Burg, AGRIS Liaison Officer, PUDOC, Wageningen, Netherlands; Torben Friis, Chief Consultant, I/S Datacentralen, Copenhagen, Denmark; Nigel May, Science Librarian, Polytechnic Southwest, Plymouth, England; and Tom Norton, Chief Librarian, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London, England.

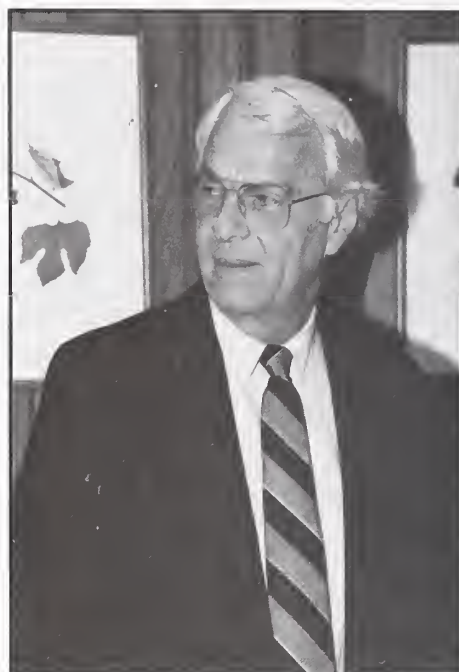


photo: J. Swab

In the autumn of 1989, Dr. Harry C. Mussman, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Science and Education, visited NAL. NAL Director, Joseph H. Howard, invited Dr. Mussman for his first visit to the Library since his appointment to his position. On the agenda were discussion of USDA programs, NAL support through library and information services, including new technology applications, NAL's national and international cooperative programs, and issues of interest to USDA's science and education community.



photo: D. Starr

Ron Young of NAL's Special Collections staff (left) discusses and demonstrates the Library's and Department's photographic collections on laser video disk with a group of visitors from Malaysia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Egypt, Bangladesh, and Haiti, sponsored by USDA's Office of International Cooperation and Development.

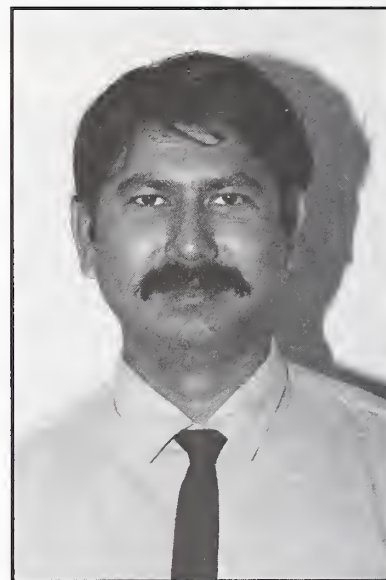


photo: J. Swab

Mr. Syed Zahurnal Amin, Librarian, Institute of Post Graduate Studies in Agriculture, Bangladesh, spent several weeks at NAL as part of graduate work at Oregon State University, sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development.





photos: J. Swab

Joseph H. Howard, NAL Director (second from left, above) discusses NAL programs and international cooperation with a group of about 20 agriculture administrators, agriculture information managers, and collective farm managers from the Soviet Union under the sponsorship of USDA's Agricultural Research Service (above and right).



photos: J. Swab

On October 25, 1989, NAL hosted a session of the Agency for International Development's Centers Day for members of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). Representatives of the following centers participated: International Rice Research Institute (IRRI); International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT); International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT); International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA); International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT); International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA); International Livestock Center for Africa (ILCA); International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases (ILRAD); International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR); International Potato Center; International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR); West Africa Rice Development Association (WARDA); (see above R)

(continued from below L) International Council for Research in Agroforestry (ICRAF); International Center for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE); Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center (AVRDC); International Institute for Irrigation Management (IIIM); International Center for Living Aquatic Resources Management (ICLARM); and other guests.

(Left) Joseph H. Howard, NAL Director, addresses the representatives of the CGIAR centers (left and below). He emphasized the international services NAL provides along with new technology applications giving access to them, such as AGRICOLA on CD-ROM. NAL staff also took advantage of the opportunity to reinforce cooperative arrangements, such as the exchange of research publications of the centers and USDA agencies.





photo: J. Swab

The National Agricultural Library continues to work with Egypt and U. S. agencies and educational institutions to develop an Egyptian National Agricultural Library. NAL recently hosted a meeting with participants shown in this photograph.

(L-R) Dr. Harold Matteson, Assistant Vice President of the Center for International Programs, New Mexico State University; Dr. Ragaa Abdel-Hady, Director, Egyptian National Agricultural Library; Dr. Ahmed Momtaz, Director, Agricultural Research Center of Egypt; Mr. Joseph H. Howard, Director, NAL; Dr. Bakir Oteifa, Coordinator, Research Grant Program of Egypt; and Dr. Abdel Azim El Gazzar, Agriculture Counselor, Embassy of Egypt, Washington, D.C.



## News from Other Libraries

# National Center for Agricultural Law Research & Information

by Jane Potter Gates  
Alternative Farming Systems Information Center, NAL

In October it was my privilege to tour the National Center for Agricultural Law Research and Information, Fayetteville, Arkansas, as the guest of Sally Kelley, Librarian, in conjunction with my trip to Fayetteville to attend the Farming Systems Research/Extension Symposium. Ms. Kelley had extended the invitation when she visited NAL in September.

The Center is located at the University of Arkansas School of Law, which offers the only degree program available in the United States in agricultural law—a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree program. Congress provided federal funding for the Center in 1987 through a three-year grant which is administered through NAL with funding appropriated annually.

Cooperation between NAL and the Center is both formal and informal. NAL assists the Center in long-range planning with particular emphasis on using new technology in the collection and dissemination of legal information; makes

recommendations on structure, staff, operating Center information programs, networking, equipment purchases, inter-library loans, materials purchases, and other functions; suggests compatible cataloging and indexing methods; and makes arrangements to have the Center's records added to the AGRICOLA database, thus ensuring national and international availability.

The Director of the Center is John D. Copeland, who spent some time with us explaining the operation of the Center and discussing his particular area of legal interest, agricultural insurance.

Purposes and goals of the Center can be divided into five basic areas, of which operation of the library is one. The other four include: conducting and publishing research; gathering and disseminating information on agricultural law issues; investigating methods which use new technology to provide access to other sources of information and databases "especially in cooperation with the National Agricultural Library;" and cooperating with other state and federal agencies, organizations, etc., having an interest in agricultural law and policy issues.

Persons wishing to learn more about the Center may contact:

*National Center for Agricultural Law Research and  
Information*

*Robert A. Leflar Law Center*

*University of Arkansas School of Law*

*Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701.*

Telephone (501) 575-7646.





## New Serials Received at NAL

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*ACPTC Proceedings. National Meeting.* Monument, CO: Association of College Professors of Textiles and Clothing. Triennial. 1986-  
**TS1300.A36**

*Advances in Human Nutrition.* Park Forest, IL: Chem-Orbital. Vol. 2-  
**QP141.A1A38**

*Agriculture, Kentucky's Pride: The Official Publication of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.* Frankfort, KY: Communications Division, The Department. Quarterly. Vol. 19, no. 2 (Apr. 1988)-  
**S65.A2K4**

*Annual Report / International Fertilizer Development Center.* Muscle Shoals, AL: The Center. Annual. 1982-  
**S631.I65**

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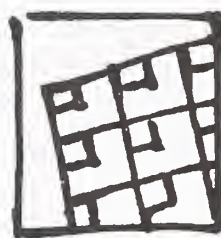
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3. *Ibid.*, p. 3.
4. National Agricultural Research Extension and Teaching Policy Act, Sec. 1411, as amended, 7 U.S.C. 3126, Sec. 1411. (a) It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that—(1) cooperation and coordination among, and the more effective utilization of, disparate agricultural libraries and information units be facilitated; (2) information and library needs related to agricultural research and education be effectively planned for, coordinated, and evaluated; (3) a structure for the coordination of Agriculture libraries, and their closely allied information gathering and disseminating units be established in close conjunction with private industry and other research libraries; (4) effective access by all colleges and universities and Department of Agriculture personnel to literature and information regarding the food and agricultural sciences be provided; (5) programs for training information utilization with respect to the food and agricultural sciences, including research grants for librarians, information scientists, and agricultural scientists be established or strengthened; and (6) the Department of Agriculture establish mutually valuable working relationships with international and foreign information and data programs.
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**February 12-14: Inside U.S. Agricultural Policy: 1990 — World Perspectives Seminar.** Washington, DC. Contact: WPI, (202) 785-3345.

**February 13: American Water Resources Association Meeting.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-8885.

**February 13: Crop Insurers Research Bureau Annual Meeting.** Orlando, FL. Contact: (202) 447-5277.

**February 13: World Perspectives 4th Annual Seminar.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-4623.

**February 13-14: Fifteenth Southern Dairy Conference.** Atlanta, GA. Contact: (202) 653-6976.

**February 13-17: National Association of WIC Directors National Conference.** New Orleans, LA; Hotel Intercontinental. Contact: Pam McCandless, NAWD, (504) 568-5065.

**February 14-16: Agricultural Relations Council's Annual Meeting.** St. Petersburg, FL. Contact: (202) 785-6710.

**February 14-16: Third North American Strawberry Conference.** Houston, TX. Contact: Jim Luby, Dept. of Horticultural Science, University of Minnesota, 1970 Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108. (612) 624-5300.

**February 15-16: National Frozen Food Association Convention.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 547-6332.

**February 15-18: Farm Conference '90.** Visalia, CA; Visalia Convention Center. Contact: (916) 757-8910.

**February 15-20: American Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Meeting.** New Orleans, LA. Contact: AAAS, 1333 H St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

**February 16: Users Advisory Board Meeting.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-8885.

**February 18-20: American Simmental Association Convention.** Tysons Corner, VA; Sheraton Premiere. Contact: (406) 587-4531.

**February 20: ABC Research Seminar.** Gainesville, FL. Contact: Isabel Wolf, (904) 372-0436.

**February 20: National Plant Genetic Resources Board Meeting.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

**February 20: 16th Annual ABC Research Seminar.** Gainesville, FL. Contact: Isabel Wolf, (904) 372-0436.

**February 20-21: Outlook 90, 9th European Agricultural Outlook Conference.** London, England; London Hilton Hotel. Contact: Melanie Taylor, Agra Europe Ltd, 25 Frant Rd. Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN2 5JT, England.

**February 21: Western Veterinary Conference.** Las Vegas, NV. Contact: (202) 447-7025.

**February 21-23: National Corn Growers Association 32nd Annual Meeting.** Phoenix, AZ; Civic Center. Contact: NCGA, (202) 546-7611.

**February 21-25: International Congress of Seed Science and Technology.** New Delhi, India. Contact: P. K. Agrawal, Secretary, Indian Society of Seed Technology, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 110012, India.



**February 22: Human Nutrition Board of Scientific Counselors Meeting.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

**February 22: National Livestock Marketing Seminar.** Dallas, TX; LeBaron Hotel. Theme: "Structural Changes in the Livestock Industry: Causes, Implications & Continuing Issues." Contact: Wayne Purcell, (703) 231-7725.

**February 25-27: National Governors' Association Convention.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 624-5300.

**February 27: 1st International Supermarket Industry Conference on Food Safety.** London, England. Contact: (202) 447-7025.

**February 28-March 3: 21st Annual Country Radio Seminar—Road Map for the 90's.** Nashville, Tennessee; Opryland Hotel. Contact: Frank Mull, (615) 327-4487.

**March 1: Irradiation Conference and Combination Treatments Conference.** London, England. Contact: (202) 447-7025.

**March 1-4: 76th Annual National Watermelon Association Convention.** Orlando, FL; Sheraton Plaza Hotel. Contact: (912) 775-2130.

**March 2-4: National Association of Meat Purveyors 1990 Management Conference.** New Orleans, LA. Contact: Stanley Emerling, (703) 827-5754.

**March 4-7: National American Wholesale Grocers Association Convention.** New Orleans, LA. Contact: (703) 532-9400.

**March 4-7: 68th Annual Convention of the National Meat Canners Association.** La Quinta, CA; La Quinta Resort Hotel. Contact: A. Dewey Bond, AMI, (703) 841-2400.

**March 5: National Farmers Union Convention.** Oklahoma City, OK. Contact: (202) 447-4623.

**March 5-6: National Association of Wheat Growers Meeting.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-3111.

**March 6: Institute of Alternative Agriculture Symposium.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

**March 7: USDA Regional Training Conference for Women.** Kansas City, MO. Theme: "Excellence in Agriculture: Tapping Its Resources." Contact: Naomi Churchill, (202) 382-0353.

**March 7-11: Independent Bankers Association of America Convention.** San Francisco, CA. Contact: (202) 659-8111.

**March 8: College Conference on Sustainable Agriculture.** Newark, DE. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

**March 8: National Food Policy Conference.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-4623.

**March 8-10: National Pork Producers Council Convention.** Lexington, KY. Contact: NPPC, (202) 789-5606.

**March 8-10: Western Region Ag in the Classroom Conference.** Albuquerque, NM. Contact: Grace Cain, (505) 526-5521.

**March 11-14: AMI-FMI Meat Marketing Conference.** Cincinnati, OH; Omni Netherlands Plaza Hotel. Contact: AMI, 1750 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.

**March 11-15: Saudi Agriculture '90.** Saudi Arabia; Riyadh Exhibition Centre. Contact: Kallman Assocs., 5 Maple Ct., Ridgewood, NJ 07450-4431.

**March 14: American Association of Industrial Veterinarians Meeting.** Alexandria, VA. Contact: (202)

447-7025.

**March 15-16: Research Symposium on Sustainable Agriculture.** Sacramento, California. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

**March 18-21: Grain Elevator & Processing Society International Technical Conference.** San Antonio, TX. Contact: GEAPS, P.O. Box 15026, Commerce Sta., Minneapolis, MN 55415.

**March 18-21: Independent Bakers Association Convention.** Palm Beach, FL. Contact: (202) 333-8190.

**March 19: National Livestock & Meat Board Annual Meeting.** Chicago, IL. Contact: (202) 447-5923.

**March 19-21: Canola Council of Canada 23rd Annual Convention.** Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; Westin Hotel. Contact: CCC, 301-433 Main St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1B3.

**March 20: National Agriculture Day.** Washington, DC. Contact: Bill Whyte, USDA, (202) 447-8174.

**March 20-24: Fire and Environment International Symposium.** Knoxville, TN. Contact: (615) 974-7984.

**March 25-29: National Grain & Feed Association Convention.** Williamsburg, VA. Contact: Randall Gordon, Suite 500, 725 15th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20005. (202) 783-2024.

**March 26-28: Agricultural Economics Reference Organization, AERO Workshop/Meeting.** Berkeley, CA; University of California. Contact: Grace Dote, (415) 642-7121.

**March 27: ESCA Genetics Conference—"Food Safety & Quality in the 1990's."** Chicago, IL. Contact: (202) 447-7025.

**March 27: Food Executives International Congress.** Washington, DC. Contact: (202) 447-4623.

**March 29-31: Western States Meat Association 44th Annual Convention.** San Diego, CA; Hyatt Islandia Hotel. Contact: Lynda Guthrie, (415) 763-1533.

**March 31-April 5: EUROBEEF '90 Exposition.** Brussels, Belgium; Brussels Exhibition Centre. Contact: C.E.M.A., Rue du Progres 52/13, B-1210 Brussels, Belgium.

**April 2-5: American Forage & Grassland Council Conference.** Roanoke, VA; Hotel Roanoke. Contact: Charles Stallings, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

**April 3-5: AgTechnology '90.** St. Louis, MO; Sheraton Hotel. Theme: "Agriculture...The Decade Ahead." Contact: Feiberg Publishing Co, P.O. Box 7, Cedar Falls, IA 50613

**April 3-6: National Peanut Council Convention.** Marco Island, FL. Contact: (703) 838-9500.

**April 4-6: National Cheese and American Butter Institute Convention.** Washington, DC. Contact: NCI, ABI, (703) 549-2230.

**April 4-6: National Symposium on Stand Establishment for Horticultural Crops.** Minneapolis, MN; Airport Hilton Hotel. Contact: Cathie Bergum, (612) 625-3775.

**April 4-6: Prime Label Expeditors 2nd Annual USDA Label and Related Issues Workshop.** Washington, DC.; Omni Shoreham Hotel. Contact: Carole Spencer, (202) 543-0698.

**April 4-6: Symposium on Specific Forest Product Opportunities.** St. Paul, MN; Ramada Hotel. Theme: "Wood Based Economic Development in the Lake States." Contact: Laura McCann, (612) 625-5747.



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## NAL's Bicentennial Oak



USDA photo (above) from NAL Special Collections; photo (right): J. Swab  
(Above) Sam Waters, Associate Director of NAL, plants the Wye Oak sapling commemorating the United States Bicentennial in 1976, while many of the NAL staff participate in the ceremony by adding a shovel of soil. (Right) In the autumn of 1989 when Sam Waters announced his retirement, the NAL Bicentennial Oak was nearly 30 feet high. (See pp. 8-9 for retirement story on Mr. Waters.)

